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ALEXANDER AGASSIZ.

By Henry P. Walcott.

An Address delivered May 1, 1912, in Dedication of the New Building of the Academy.

In a country lying among the Jura mountains and a portion of France adjacent to this district on the west — in four towns distant less than forty miles from a common centre were born four men who have made extraordinary contributions to the scientific possessions of the world.

Cuvier was born at Montbéliard in 1769; Louis Agassiz at Môtiers in 1807; Pasteur at Dôle in 1822; and Alexander Agassiz at Neuchâtel in 1835.

Cuvier was more distinctly than any other man the master of Louis Agassiz and his controlling influence was evident to the very end of the latter's life. Pasteur's scientific labors have contributed to the health and happiness of mankind in the highest degree. Fame had sounded Louis Agassiz's praises in Europe before he came to this country, and from the day of his arrival in America until his death he was the undoubted leader in his scientific domain. To Alexander Agassiz fell the most difficult of all tasks, that of maintaining an independent position for himself by the side of his distinguished father and in the same departments of science. He proved himself capable of doing so. Some may remember the speech made by him at the centennial celebration of the foundation of this Academy. He thanked the chairman for not introducing him as the distinguished son of a distinguished father. He desired above all things to be judged by his own accomplishments, devoted and loving son he ever was; but he had all the independence of the stock from which he sprang and jealously asserted it.

Few regions on the earth's surface have borne within comparatively brief limits of time a richer harvest of great men.

Alexander Agassiz's mother was Cécile Braun, member of a well known family of Baden, which has given to the world notable names in science and affairs. She was herself a cultivated woman with unusual artistic talent.

Louis Agassiz came to this country in 1846, leaving for the time being his family behind; his wife died in 1848 at Freiburg im Breisgau, whither she had removed from Neuchâtel to the company of her own relatives. Alexander came here into contact with Professor C. T. E. von Siebold, whose character and great scientific attainments did not fail to make a deep impression upon him. Soon after his mother's death in 1848 he came to this country and joined his father at Cambridge. He was prepared for college in the high school of that city and was graduated from Harvard College in the class of 1855.

He received degrees from the Lawrence Scientific School in 1857 and again in 1862, the studies pursued there were Chemistry, Civil Engineering and Zoölogy. This choice of studies shows that at this time he was not yet settled in his mind as to his life work — he had for a short time an interest in a Pennsylvania coal mine, and had thought of taking up the occupation of railroad engineering. He was appointed assistant in the United States Coast Survey in 1859 and was employed in charting the mouth of the Columbia River, Oregon; and in the survey of the northwest boundary, he found time in the intervals of his official duties to study the marine life of San Francisco harbor and to make collections at other points on the Pacific coast for the Museum at Cambridge.

Whatever his own plans may have been, powers beyond his control had been at work to determine his career, he vainly thought it might be in fields remote from those in which his father had labored, but indulgent fates brought him back to the natural sciences and here he remained for that part of his activities in which he found his highest satisfaction. He had lived all his life in an atmosphere of science, he had an inheritance from both father and mother of the mental qualities that promised him successes in these fields.

Louis Agassiz's second marriage, in 1850, to Elizabeth C. Cary, brought into the family a very strong and happy influence in the same direction, and ultimately the valued companionship for Alexander Agassiz which nearly reached the span of his own life.

Another important influence in his preparation for life is to be found in the state of Cambridge social life at this time. The native and unstinted hospitality of the father aided by the gracious manner in which Mrs. Agassiz received his guests brought to this open house every traveler of scientific prominence. The college society of the fifties and the association with the neighboring city could not easily be found elsewhere; some idea may be formed of its quality by reading the lines in which Lowell pictures the scenes, from which his great friend had been recently removed by death. There was no place there for mere wealth, riches were prized only where their possession had contributed to the improvement or happiness of mankind, and the man without a definite occupation in life was practically unknown. It was a very simple life according to the standards of the present day but it yielded results which our larger material resources have not proportionately multiplied.

After a year's absence upon the Pacific coast, he returned to Cambridge in accordance with his father's earnest wishes and definitely entered upon the work of the Museum. His marriage in 1860 to Miss Anna Russell, sister of the wife of Theodore Lyman, his classmate and associate at the Museum, made this place also his home. His methodical habits and financial prudence were of great value to his father in the administration of the business of the establishment and he early became indispensable there. The visitor to the modest quarters of the Museum of those days would probably have failed to discover in the quiet assistant intent only on the work of the laboratories and of the Museum, the power which was destined in a few years to place these collections in halls commensurate with their value and that by resources won by himself in the fierce struggle for the wealth buried in the depths of the earth.

In 1859 was published his first scientific paper which was read before the Natural History Society of Boston, upon the mechanism of the flight of Lepidoptera — a subject hardly to be expected from one who was subsequently to gain his great honors in very different departments of zoölogy. Before the age of thirty he had published more than twenty (20) papers upon scientific subjects, all of which displayed originality and covered a variety of topics. He published in 1865 with his stepmother, Mrs. L. Agassiz, a book of popular character under the title "Seaside Studies in Natural History." He became much interested in 1867 in the dredging operations of his friend Louis F. de Pourtalès, who on the Coast Survey Steamer "Corwin" had successfully brought up material from the then unusual depth of 850 fathoms along the course of the Gulf Stream between the Florida coast and the Bahamas. He assisted in the arrangement and description of the collections. He thus early became interested in the study of the ocean bottom — the problems of which were to occupy so prominent a place in all his work for the rest of his life. The influence of this favorite pupil of his father and his own life long friend is acknowledged in the appreciative notices which were presented to the American Academy and to the National Academy after the death of Pourtalès.

"The Revision of the Echini," which appeared in the years 1872–74, is the best known work of Agassiz and was at once recognized as the performance of a master and made him the leading authority on the subject. The thoroughness of his methods is shown by this extract from a letter to a friend from Leuk, Switzerland, August, 1870, "I have done now with my examination of the Echini collections, having seen them all." It was of this work that Jeffries Wyman spoke when he said that the son had done a piece of work that would live as long as anything accomplished by the father." The manner in which the work was performed by Agassiz is well shown by the quotation from his letter given above — he saw every specimen that was worth seeing before he felt justified in stating his own conclusions.

The activity that marked these early years down to 1873 was a marvel to all — he was intensely busy, and capable of undertaking the most strenuous physical and mental labors, his working day was habitually more than half of the twenty-four hours.

In 1869 came a serious illness from which modern surgery might have brought a more satisfactory cure than that which he obtained. Some of the consequences of this illness affected his mode of life permanently — he avoided thereafter, so far as possible, our New England winters.

The end of the year 1873 was a time of great sadness for Agassiz. His father and his wife died within ten days of each other. He assumed the direction of the Museum and for 37 years labored for its development and administration, a serious task, if it had been his sole occupation.

Louis Agassiz had opened a school for natural history studies on the island of Penikese in Buzzards Bay in the summer of 1873. His immense capacity for teaching, his love for it and success in it carried the school through the first season, but it was the last great effort of his life. In the succeeding year Alexander Agassiz reluctantly took up the burden, he had not shared his father's enthusiastic belief in the possibility of carrying on a school at this remote point. He loyally made the attempt, however, and when it became evident that the necessary financial support could not be obtained, he characteristically did not hesitate to drop the enterprise and pay the deficit from his own pocket.

A few years after the closing of the Penikese school he built in the vicinity of his house at Castle Hill, Newport, an excellent marine laboratory with the required accommodations for about 12 students. Here much valuable work was done by a number of men whose names have become well known throughout the scientific world. During his long service at the head of the Museum and under a variety of titles, he expended from his own resources for collections and the buildings to hold them, more than $1,200,000, not including very considerable sums contributed to other allied interests or to the general purposes of the University. At the end of the year 1874 he set out on the first of the many distant expeditions which were made at intervals through the rest of his life. This journey took him to Chile and Peru, and during the course of it he made the exploration of lake Titicaca, an account of which is given in our proceedings for the year 1876.

His quick eye showed him at Tilibiche in Peru, a fossil coral reef at an elevation of nearly 3000 feet above the sea and 20 miles inland, and he noted with a certain satisfaction the evidence that Darwin's observations had caused on his part an underestimate of the amount of recent elevation of this coast.

He now entered upon that series of deep sea investigations which in some form had always been of exceeding interest to him. He directed three expeditions in the Atlantic on board the U. S. Steamer "Blake" and three in the Pacific on the "Albatross." The vast material collected on these trips was, with combined wisdom and generosity and in obedience to the rule of the Museum laid down in his father's time, distributed for purposes of description and study to those scientific men everywhere who were best qualified for the work.

Sir John Murray says, and no living authority is better able to make the statement, "If we can say that we now know the physical and biological conditions of the great ocean basins in their broad general outlines — and I believe we can do so — the present state of our knowledge is due to the combined work and observations of a great many men belonging to many nationalities, but most probably more to the work and inspiration of Alexander Agassiz than to any other single man."

In these later years he was also much interested in the study of the coral reefs. He organized many expeditions to all parts of the world — to the Maldives, to Australia and to remote portions of the Pacific. He saw, explored, and accurately described every important coral reef region on the globe and having done so he felt that he was ready to give his own views to the world.

Darwin saw but one atoll and upon that founded his theory of coral building. Agassiz was at work in his last days upon the publication which would have given to the world the well considered conclusions acquired by the studies of nearly a lifetime. Though his own final results cannot be surely known, his vast material still exists for some more fortunate investigator. He had written and rewritten his sketch of the book upon this subject and a few days before his death said to his friend, Sir John Murray in London, that it was his intention to practically rewrite the book during the year for the fourth and last time, leaving out all criticism of the work of others and stating exactly what he had himself observed and his own views. It should be understood that Darwin's theory of the coral reefs belonged to his younger years and has no bearing upon his later published theory of natural selection. What Agassiz's views were, upon this and other theories conveniently grouped under the title Darwinism, cannot be accurately stated. It is true that he found much that was objectionable in the opinions maintained by some of Darwin's German followers. No one who knew him, however, can doubt his ability to weigh dispassionately any evidence, which could be produced for this or for any other doctrine, though it might run counter to opinions long entertained by him or by those whom he delighted to honor.

Some intimations of his views upon the position of the Zoölogist of today as compared with that of the great men of an earlier generation may be found in the remarks made by him as representative of his class at the Commencement at Harvard in 1905, that being the 50th anniversary of his graduation. He called attention to the inconveniences and the primitive appliances which hampered the work of the student of natural history in his own student days and added, "The change in scientific thought is most striking — fifty years ago authority was the powerful factor — scientific dictators were not uncommon —'now authority as such is no longer recognized beyond the point at which it can be controlled. Successful experiment has taken its place, and while recognizing the value of imagination and of pleasing speculations, men of science no longer accept the dicta of their leaders."

As John Hunter said to his pupil Jenner, who had asked for the explanation of some perplexing phenomenon, "I think your solution is just; but why think, why not try the experiment." So with Agassiz, discussions had little interest for him when it was not possible to put the conclusion to the test of observation or experiment.

The bibliography of his own scientific papers contains 248 titles which cover a great range of subjects and procured for him marked distinctions throughout the world. No man among men of science promoted the interests of zoölogy so generously as he. In 1910 the 54th volume of the Bulletin and the 40th volume of the Memoirs of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy were coming from the press. These publications began to appear in 1863–64 and in the number of important and finely illustrated papers which are presented there, they have been excelled by few only of the great and most active scientific societies of the world, yet the expense of producing them was largely borne by Agassiz.

Much has been said about the great sums of money spent by him upon the monument he raised in filial piety to the memory of his father, and which he duly commemorated in that characteristically simple inscription upon the walls of the Museum "Alexander, son of Louis Agassiz, to his father." The voice of the public has named it the Agassiz Museum — father and son were both content to call it the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy. Whatever legally that title may be, the memory of these two lives will possess a force greater than the statute, and will preserve for generations to come the name common to the enthusiastic founder and to the wise, patient and munificent builder. Whatever Agassiz's contributions in money may have been and others, not he counted them up to sums exceeding any thus far made to the University, yet he gave a greater still in the devotion of himself to the task of developing and making secure the future activities of the Museum. All the material successes he had won in other fields he pledged to the support of the Museum after he had satisfied the reasonable requirements of his family, but of his own labors he made no reservation. The Museum had all that he could bestow.

On the pages of the quinquennial catalogue of Harvard College are enumerated the distinctions conferred upon him by universities, learned societies and foreign governments, they are a sufficient proof of the esteem in which he was held throughout the world. Such distinctions sometimes reveal a more than passive recipient, but they came to him absolutely unsought. His intimates even had little knowledge of the honors bestowed upon him, and rarely obtained it from himself.

The great gold Victoria Research Medal given to him in 1909, was shown to his friends, but this was more for the exquisite beauty of the workmanship of the Medal, than for the pride in receiving it. He had a keen appreciation of anything that had artistic merit and surrounded himself in his home with many beautiful objects of art collected in his travels from all parts of the world. In addition to the Victoria Research Medal of the Royal Geographical Society, he had received the Walker Grand prize of the Boston Society of Natural History and in 1878 the Serres prize of the French Academy of Sciences, the first foreigner to be so honored.

From 1865 onwards in addition to the scientific work of the Museum he was developing and managing most successfully the largest copper mine in the world. He did not rest content with the development of the mine as a problem in engineering, but always mindful of the just obligation of capital to labor, he employed experts for the purpose of securing good conditions of living, caused careful measures to be taken for the protection of life and limb in this hazardous occupation, and secured the formation of pension and aid funds for the benefit of disabled and aged employees to which the corporation made liberal contributions. No workman was so far removed from the authorities in control that his complaint passed by unheard. The whole conduct of the mine is one of the bright spots in the much beclouded world of such enterprises and must still be reckoned among the more satisfactory attempts to bring the workman and his employer into harmonious relations with each other.

A pleasing instance of his thoughtfulness with regard to the population of this mining community is related by one of his friends, the physician who took care of him through a fever which might have been acquired during one of his visits to the mines at Calumet. The physician was asked one day whether he suspected that the disease could have been brought from that place. If that were so, there was something to do at once and that was to take such measures that his work people should be protected from a like danger. Upon this suspicion, possibly unfounded, a thorough overhauling of water supplies and systems of sewerage was at once undertaken there while Agassiz was still confined to his house.

He was early called to service upon the governing boards of Harvard College, he was elected a member of the Board of Overseers in 1873, became a member of the Corporation in 1878, resigned his place there in 1884, and was promptly elected to the Overseers in 1885, was again transferred to the Corporation in 1886, and definitely gave up his place there in 1890, when he found it necessary to free himself from some of his many occupations. During all the period of his connection with these boards he was an active, much interested and far sighted helper in all the departments of the University. The Jefferson laboratory owed much to him for the friendly coöperation with which he promoted the intentions and plans of the generous founder. He gave valued aid to the Observatory, to the Botanical Museum, the Mineralogical Cabinet and the Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology.

He interested himself in the attempt to secure for women a share in the medical instruction offered by the University. He took a generous part in many of the subscriptions for the general purposes of the College. He witnessed with interest the development of the collections of the Arnold Arboretum under auspices not unlike those with which he was himself so familiar. The members of his College class have given expression to their warm feelings of friendship for one who never forgot his college associates and had a genuine pleasure in all his meetings with them.

The secretary of the class closes a feeling notice of Agassiz's death with these words of appreciation, "No one of the class will miss him more than the secretary does who never went to him in vain for aid in the many common undertakings which bound the class together."

He did not forget his early debt to the public schools of Cambridge and willingly accepted service upon the school committee, and while a member of that body devoted all his special knowledge to the service of the city. This appears to be the only public office, subject to election by the people, which he at any time held.

Agassiz was elected a member of the Academy of Arts and Sciences Nov. 12, 1862, he was then in his twenty-eighth year. It was possibly in remembrance of this early election that he suggested in his last note to President Trowbridge the propriety of bringing in to this association a larger number of the younger scientific men than had hitherto been customary. He presented his first paper the next year and made in all thirteen communications, generally upon special subjects in zoölogy. A very interesting account of his work at Lake Titicaca is an exception, and has an added claim to our attention from the fact that it was made at a time when the death of his wife had left him disconsolate, but it is also an evidence of how resolutely he turned again to the occupations which he followed to the end.

The series of publications put forth by the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy received the records of his scientific labors after the date of the last communication made to the Academy. When President Cooke died in the summer of 1894, a feeling soon became manifest that Agassiz was the most fit member for the succession. The Vice-President of that year was Augustus Lowell and he was the prompt and enthusiastic leader in the preliminaries usual to an election. Agassiz as might have been expected was very reluctant to allow the use of his name and probably would not have done so, but for the insistence of Mr. Lowell, whose influence was all the greater from the fact that he was one of the earliest friends acquired by Agassiz when he landed a stranger among people speaking an unknown tongue.

He received a unanimous vote in one of the largest meetings ever held by the Academy; he faithfully performed all the duties of the office interrupted only by the winter vacations which his illness of 1869 made necessary for him. In this place it is a satisfaction to remember that no one of his many and great distinctions gave him a greater pleasure than did this. It was a most unexpected revelation to him of the hold he had upon the respect and good will of his fellows.

It is not possible to escape from some comparison of the two great men of science who have borne this name, and there can be nothing unbecoming in the attempt to make it.

The son was the pupil of the father and different as the two men seemed to be, the son was ever conscious of the debt he owed to his father.

Louis Agassiz came to this country with a great and well deserved reputation fairly earned among the world's great men.

He did more than anyone to encourage the study of the natural sciences here. Endowed with every social attraction — persuasive, a leader and fond of his leadership, great in acquirement, quick in apprehension, rich in imagination, fertile in illustration, a teacher beyond compare. He found listeners in the market place as well as in the halls of the Colleges and of the Legislatures. He laid in magnificent hope the foundation of an establishment so extensive that he had no just right to expect that either he or his son could see its completion.

Alexander Agassiz, patient seeker after truth, skilful organizer of scientific methods, unwearied in researches, prudent, self-denying, pursuing his great ends to a successful issue with silent determination, not eloquent and always reluctant to attempt persuasion by spoken words, he leaves behind him, in the opinion of many competent judges, a more permanent and more important mass of completed work in the study of the natural sciences than fell to his father's lot. He, moreover, by his own exertion completed the structure which his father could only have seen in some prophetic vision.

It is not easy to speak of the personal qualities of Alexander Agassiz. Men expected to find in him the counterpart of his father, and in such intercourse as they may have had with him they met with disappointment. They regarded him as one holding himself somewhat aloof from his fellows, not much interested in their doings and slightly affected by their misfortunes. This conception of his character showed little acquaintance with the real man; beneath the quiet and reserved, certainly not austere demeanor, there lay a nature quick in feeling, sympathetic and tender, not given to verbal expression, but capable of great generosity not in money only, but in the things that money never buys.

They knew him in the serious work of life, wise, fearless and of an indomitable energy, quick and fiery in temper, but harboring no sullen enmities. Many a victim of some sudden expression of a vigorous disapproval had found to his surprise in some future and unmerited trouble no warmer friend or if occasion required more strenuous advocate than Alexander Agassiz.

His emotions were never under his complete control and he steadily avoided the public occasions that might lead to their manifestation. They were always, however, the emotions of a sensitive, generous and strong nature.

His actions often seemed hasty if not premature, but this was in appearance merely, for his whole life long he thought for himself and by himself, and when action came it was true that few, if any, had knowledge of the long and patient thinking that led up to the result.

His intimate friends were comparatively few in number, but to those who had earned his confidence, he showed no reserve, and had a simple charm which made intercourse with him the delight of a lifetime.

The unworthy things in life, or such that seemed so to him, moved him to quick and impetuous judgments and expressions, but if cooler thought led him to believe that he had made a mistake, it was quite certain that any wrong that might have been done would be fully repaired.

His wealth, whatever it may have become, had little effect upon a life simple and free from display. The man who was known all over the world in the assemblies of the great men of science walked unrecognized through the streets of Cambridge, and he would not have had it otherwise. He was modest, somewhat diffident and shy, but he was by no means unconscious of his powers and the recognition of them by his peers was a source of legitimate satisfaction to him. He was courageous, independent and quite ready to fight if need be, for the losing cause. He was not a willing critic of the work of other men, unless it dealt directly with subjects to which he had himself given much attention. He was ever ready to recognize with unselfish praise the results of any honest and thorough investigation. All the resources of the Museum were at the disposal of him who could effectively make use of them.

He suffered without complaint any criticism of his own opinions, but was sure to be roused to instant wrath at any suggestion that he had incorrectly reported observations or experiments. His declaration of scientific faith was his father's adage, that a physical fact was as sacred as a moral principle.

One instance of his fine generosity may well be noted here. Some years since it was announced that a notice of his father was about to be published. Mrs. L. Agassiz and he had reason to believe that the work was not in friendly hands. The printer's proofs of the paper came into Agassiz's possession, together with the intimation that any change he might wish to make would receive serious consideration. He requested a trusted friend to read over the proofs and mark such passages as might appear to him unfitting. The friends met to compare notes, they agreed in substance with the exception of one passage that seemed to the friend mischievous if not malevolent. Agassiz said at once, "As to the spirit in which this statement is made I quite agree with you, but it is a scientific question, and any scientific man has the right to criticise my father's scientific views." The passage remained.

The lessons of the narrow circumstances of his youth and early manhood never left him. He could be apparently reckless in discarding machinery and tools which had served their purposes or were inferior to newer inventions, but it was always with the object of getting a larger return or a better product. For himself he never sought luxuries, but lived without ostentation in the dignified manner that became his station. He cast aside all the lessons of thrift, however, when he turned to the human agencies in his employment. He never discharged an employee who had been long in his service and who was still capable of doing enough work to appear to be doing something.

One of Agassiz's most remarkable characteristics was the systematic and accurate disposal of his time, he might be making a journey to the Maldives or it might be to the barrier reef of Australia. The date of his return was fixed, and punctual to the day he made his appearance at the Museum, and quietly resumed his accustomed occupations there. He made such thorough preparations for these trips, and provided so carefully for any possible mishaps, that the usual uncertainties of ocean voyages for him at least ceased to exist. Many men take measures against the larger accidents, and forget the trifles. Agassiz kept the great emergencies in mind but never neglected the small things of life.

No native born citizen ever carried to Europe a more pronounced spirit of personal independence than he did. His stories of experiences with officials on the other side of the Atlantic were a source of much entertainment for his friends. In the later years of his life his thoughts turned more willingly to the other shores of the Atlantic, he had made warm friends there, and he looked forward with much satisfaction to the few weeks in Paris which generally were the end of his foreign excursions for the winter. Here in the company of kindred spirits — Associates in the Institute of France and others — he spent days of real enjoyment, speaking the language which belonged to his father if not to his mother and which never had become at all unfamiliar to him. The theatres of the better sort attracted him and his distance from the demands of his active life here left him free to indulge in his always temperate pleasures.

Notwithstanding the very serious illness of his early life his originally slender but vigorous frame bore him safely through a life of more than the usual exposures in the varied hardships of a mining camp and journeys which were often perilous. He was spared the usual defects of advancing years and carried to the end a clear head, unimpaired senses and an active body. On Easter morning, March 27th, 1910, on board the Steamer Adriatic in mid ocean he passed from sleep to death without a struggle and the last great mystery was revealed to him who had dealt with the immensities of time and space in all the oceans of the globe.

It was well known to some of Agassiz's friends that he had bestowed much thought upon a plan for giving to this Academy a more satisfactory house than any it had yet had. He had made provision in his will for a bequest to the Academy which would have given it a substantial aid in this direction. He, however, had promised himself a more immediate gratification of this wish and on 16 October, 1909, wrote to President Trowbridge offering to erect upon the land already owned by the Academy and the adjoining lot which he had recently purchased a building which should become, to use his own words, "a scientific and literary Club," while remaining the domicile of the Academy. He had caused plans to be prepared by Mr. S. F. Page, for a building to be erected on this spot — not merely a house for the Academy but a home for its members, a place to which they would gladly at all times come, to which they might bring their friends and associates from other parts of the country or from foreign lands. It was quite clear to those who were most familiar with his plans, that the house was destined to have all the attractive features which he knew so well to give to his own dwellings. His sons in quick response to the father's wishes with a generous piety have carried out his plans. Mr. Page, the architect, had submitted his sketches to Mr. Agassiz and had had frequent conferences with him before he left the country in December, 1909. His death on March 27, 1910, of necessity caused some delay in the progress of the work, but the plans had been so fully developed that there seemed no doubt as to his intentions and the architect under the direction of the sons and of your committee has faithfully and successfully brought the building to completion.

Kings and ambitious noblemen have in other lands and other times been patrons of learned societies and have provided sumptuous accommodations for them. Our house is believed to be the only abode of a scientific society built by a member of the body and devoted to the unrestricted uses of his fellows. If Agassiz had lived to see the completion of this house, it is safe to say that neither his name not his features would have appeared upon these walls. What his singular modesty would have forbidden to him living has been done in the one instance by the authorities of the Academy, and in the other by the loving hands of one of his own family.

In the great Museum at Cambridge is the monument of two great men of science laboring in the service of science alone. Here in this pleasant house and home may their associates and successors for all time remember the gracious spirit of him who asked only of his fellows a kindly remembrance.

May we not speak of him in the words which our own poet used in describing another of our greatest and best loved associates,

The wisest man could ask no more of fate
Than to be simple, modest, manly, true,
Safe from the many, honored by the Few;

. . . .

To feel mysterious Nature ever new;
To touch, if not to grasp, her endless clue,
And learn by each discovery how to wait.
He widened knowledge and escaped the praise;
He wisely taught, because more wise to learn,—
He toiled for Science not to draw men's gaze,
But for her lore of self denial stern.

O friend of this house and all who gather here, not of a day but for long years to come may your place still be here to welcome by this visible presence the generations of this Academy, till this solid structure which you have built and all that it contains shall sink in dust.